Ontario Department of Education

Report on the Schools

Attended by

French-Speaking Pupils

1942

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FRENCH INSTRUCTION

The French-speaking Inspectoral Staff

Resignation:

Dr. Louis Charbonneau, M.A., B.Paed., Ph.D., tendered his resignation as Inspector of Public and Separate Schools for the District of Sudbury, in February, 1942, to enter the Federal Civil Service at Ottawa. Dr. Charbonneau, a native of Prescott County, Ontario, began his teaching career in 1916 in the Province of Saskatchewan, where he was successively assistant and principal of both elementary and secondary schools. From 1923 to 1927 he acted as Master in the University of Ottawa School of Pedagogy. In 1927 he was appointed Inspector of Public and Separate schools in Russell County and later served the Department of Education as Normal School Master, Editor of French Text-books, and again as School Inspector. Dr. Charbonneau has given the best years of his life to the cause of education and is held in high esteem by a large circle of friends. His former colleagues wish him continued success in his new field of endeavour.

Transfer:

Dr. Rémi Millette, M.A., B.Paed., Ph.D., was transferred in May, 1942, from Cochrane to Sudbury, to succeed Dr. Charbonneau.

Appointments:

Mr. François Moreau, B.A., B.Paed., Assistant in the Office of the Chief Inspector, was appointed in April, 1942, Inspector of Public and Separate Schools, with residence at Cochrane.

Mr. Joseph Beaulieu, Mus. Bac., of Ottawa, was appointed in November, 1942, Assistant Supervisor of Music in the Department of Education.

Teachers' Training and Qualifications

In 1941-42 there were 144 teachers-in-training at the University at Ottawa Normal School, 28 of whom were enrolled in the First Class course, and 116 in the Second Class course. As a result of the term and final examinations 26 students were awarded First Class teachers' certificates, and 105 obtained Second Class certificates.

The following table shows the number and percentage of Ontario French-speaking elementary school teachers holding First or Second Class certificates in November, 1942, and the progress made in this regard since 1929:—

	1929	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Total number of French-speaking teachers in Elementary Schools	1,087	1,316	1,390	1,416	1,438	1,441
Number of above teachers holding I or II Class certificates	273	1,135	1,271	1,311	1,307	1,274
Percentage of French-speaking teachers holding I or II Class certificates	25.11	86.24	91.43	92.58	90.89	88.41

Grade-Enrolment Distribution of Pupils in Elementary Schools

The following comparative table for the years 1938, 1939, 1941, and 1942, shows the marked progress which has been achieved, during the period under review, in the grade-enrolment distribution of French-speaking classes in all elementary schools:—

Separate and Public Schools

Grade	1938		1939		1941		1942	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
I	11,216	23.66	8,955	18.16	8,676	17.25	7,648	17.39
II	6,992	14.75	7,148	14.49	7,021	13.96	6,245	14.20
III	4,974	10.49	6,631	13.45	6,938	13.80	5,979	13.59
IV	5,548	11.71	6,364	12.90	6,454	12.84	5,842	13.28
V	5,828	12.30	5,883	11.93	6,166	12.26	5,275	11.99
VI	4,775	10.07	5,136	10.41	5,226	10.39	4,528	10.30
VII	3,764	7.95	4,018	8.15	4,141	8.23	3,747	8.52
VIII	2,913	6.15	3,436	6.97	3,902	7.75	3,191	7.25
IX	727	1.52	893	1.81	915	1.82	795	1.81
X	443	.93	587	1.19	605	1.20	471	1.07
Auxiliary Classes	217	.46	268	.54	252	.50	265	.60
Totals	47,397	100.00	49,319	100.00	50,296	100.00	43,986	100.00

The drop in the total enrolment from 50,296 in 1941, to 43,986 in 1942, is due to two causes: (1) The setting up in 1940-41 of an additional English-speaking separate school inspectorate in Northern Ontario, into which were transferred English-speaking sections of mixed schools, which, prior to 1942, were included in the French-speaking inspectors' Annual Age-Grade reports; (2) The movement of a large number of French-speaking families from mining and other centres to wartime industrial places where French-speaking classes were not yet organized.

It is encouraging to note in the above statistics that: (1) The many repeaters, who, before 1939, swelled considerably the enrolment of the Grade I classes, have gradually disappeared. This improvement was made possible by revising the programme of studies for the Grade I classes and by urging school boards to place these classes under well-qualified and experienced teachers. (2) The enrolment in each of the first six grades of the elementary schools is now almost normal. (3) The percentage of enrolment in the Grade VIII classes has increased from 6.15, in 1938, to 7.25, in 1942.

Although the present war period may render the task more difficult, it is confidently expected that, through a continued effort on the part of teachers and inspectors, the enrolment in the Grade VIII classes will attain approximately 10 per cent of the total school enrolment within the next few years.

Note: The usual statistical tables have been omitted this year.

Secondary School Classes

The following table shows the number of French-speaking students enrolled in December, 1942, in the advanced French courses of Collegiate Institutes,

High, Continuation, and Vocational Schools under the supervision of the Department of Education:—

SCHOOL	GRADE					
	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	Total
Alexandria High	18	10	14	....	....	42
Cochrane High	6	4	1	2	....	13
Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational	66	32	12	1	1	112
Embrun High	21	14	14	9	4	62
Espanola Continuation	2	3	....	....	....	5
Hawkesbury High (for French-speaking Pupils)	46	25	31	14	....	116
Hearst High	6	2	1	....	....	9
Kapuskasing High	26	12	8	7	....	53
Kirkland Lake Collegiate and Vocational	20	15	5	3	1	44
Mattawa High	8	8	3	4	....	23
Ottawa Technical	53	50	....	....	....	103
Paincourt Continuation	10	8	8	8	....	34
Penetanguishene High	25	10	13	4	....	52
Plantagenet High	23	19	17	15	7	81
Rockland High	26	18	12	5	1	62
Smooth Rock Falls Continuation	17	5	2	....	....	24
Sturgeon Falls High	32	36	16	11	7	102
Sudbury High and Technical	35	15	13	10	6	79
Tilbury High	6	2	....	....	....	8
Timmins High and Vocational	70	39	16	6	3	134
Vankleek Hill Collegiate	15	9	3	2	....	29
Totals	531	336	189	101	30	1,187

NOTE:—The absence of students in the higher grades of some of the above schools is due to the fact that the advanced French courses were just recently established in those schools.

Two High Schools were added during the year to the list of secondary schools attended by French-speaking pupils: Alexandria High School and Hearst High School. In Alexandria a French-speaking section, comprising to date Grades IX, X, and XI, was organized in September, 1942. The new High School in the Town of Hearst was established at midsummer, 1942. It is hoped that similar action will be taken in the near future in some other French-speaking centres of the province, in order that all pupils may enjoy equal opportunity in the matter of secondary school education.

The total enrolment of 1,187 French-speaking students in the secondary schools, although slightly lower than in 1941 (1,249), compares favourably with the totals reported for 1938 (839), for 1939 (1,027), and for 1940 (1,102). There are, besides, some 2,500 French-speaking students who are pursuing their studies in the Grade IX and Grade X classes of the elementary schools, and in private schools. Some of the latter are inspected by the Department of Education for the purpose of accepting, or not accepting, the teachers' recommendation in respect to pupils who are candidates for middle school certificates.

The following paragraph, which appeared in last year's report, stands repetition:

"Although much satisfaction is derived from the progress made so far, it is yet evident that much remains to be done throughout the province in order to raise the percentage of the French-speaking secondary school enrolment from the present 6 or 7 per cent to at least 18 or 20 per cent of the total French-speaking school enrolment. Of course, as was stated in previous

reports, the main cause of this low and rapidly decreasing enrolment from grade to grade in the secondary schools is to be found and eradicated in the elementary classes. Once the problem is solved in the elementary department of the school—and according to present indications this task will be completed within two or three years—there should be an automatic improvement in the secondary school enrolment and age-grade distribution of pupils."

In these times of apparent prosperity, when employment is bountiful, many students are tempted to abandon their studies before having completed their secondary school education. They should be warned that by thwarting the full development of their talents they would be doing themselves and the nation a grave injustice. It is indeed easy to foresee that in the post-war period much disillusionment will await those young men and women who do not possess sufficient academic or technical education.

Mr. Henri Lemieux, B.A., B.Paed., High School Inspector, states in his reports on French-speaking classes that on the whole the work is carried on satisfactorily. Marked progress is noted in the amount of supplementary reading being done by the students. This is especially commendable in view of the present difficulty of securing French books for the school libraries.

Provincial Contest

The finals of the fifth annual provincial contest among the Grade VIII French-speaking pupils were held in Ottawa on April 9th, 1942. Twenty-four contestants—the winning boy and the winning girl from each of the twelve French-speaking inspectorates—took part in this final competition. The four provincial winners, the first two of whom were awarded secondary school scholarships, were as follows:

1st boy: Fernand Fontaine, 14, St. Joseph School, Sturgeon Falls;

1st girl: Yolande Laviolette, 13, Sacré-Coeur School, Hawkesbury;

2nd boy: Jean-Marie Déry, 14, Brébeuf School, Ottawa;

2nd girl: Denise Tremblay, 13, Assomption School, Kirkland Lake.

It may be noted with much satisfaction that, as in previous years, the winners of major prizes represented widely scattered localities in the province.

This annual contest, which was first organized in 1937-38, has become the main event of the year in the annals of French education in Ontario. Besides drawing parents and teachers in closer co-operation, it encourages the talented pupils to undertake and complete their secondary school education.

Inspectoral District Enterprises

Since 1939 the French-speaking school inspectors have been asked to undertake each year, in their respective inspectorates, one special enterprise bearing on some particular phase of education. It was suggested that these enterprises, which should aim at correcting a general weakness throughout the inspectorate or at fostering a new and valuable idea in education, be carried on in a scientific manner by taking note of essential data, such as existing conditions at the outset, means employed, difficulties encountered, and results obtained.

During 1942 some of the topics for special research in French-speaking inspectorates were as follows: history and topography of local school sections;

how to improve the teaching of literature in Grades VII and VIII; how to interest gifted pupils in completing their elementary and secondary education; how to secure an ideal classification of elementary school pupils; how to improve the pupils' handwriting; the beautification of school properties; the replacement of out-dated school accommodations, such as desks, blackboards, etc.,; group meetings of school trustees and secretaries; how to improve the teaching of arithmetic in Grades V and VI.

The following excerpts are taken from the report submitted by Inspector François Moreau, B.A., B.Paed., of Cochrane, on: "*History and Topography of Local School Sections*":—

> "A discussion on the general weakness of the teaching of social studies in this Northern Inspectorate, held at a group meeting of the teachers, revealed as one major cause the scarcity of source material on hand, resulting in a lack of interest in that part of the social studies programme which deals with the home locality.
>
> As a remedial measure, the teachers undertook a project bearing on the history of their respective school sections. It was felt that efficient teaching of this topic would serve as a model and an incentive to go discovering.
>
> All the pupils took part in the project. The girls were assigned the history, the boys the topography. Interviews and correspondence with old-timers, frequent references to survey maps, to parochial archives, to school registers, etc., overcame the many difficulties encountered and elicited the required information. The data was presented in the form of oral and written compositions. Each pupil made his own map, completing it as the required information was discovered. Finally the material was written up as an article and copies were sent to each teacher of the inspectorate.
>
> The results obtained have been outstanding, and the knowledge and experience acquired have made it possible to go further afield with corresponding success."

The excellent enterprise described above by Inspector Moreau will doubtless inspire teachers in some of the other inspectorates.

"L'Association de l'Enseignement français de l'Ontario"

The provincial association of French-speaking teachers and inspectors held its third annual convention in Ottawa, on April 9th, 10th and 11th, 1942. Mr. Roland Bériault, B.A., of the Ottawa Separate School staff, was elected president for the year 1942-43. Mr. Paul-Eudore Piché, B.A., B.Paed., Principal of Garneau School, Ottawa, succeeded Mr. Bériault to the presidency when the latter retired from the teaching profession in November, 1942.

This association, which holds a provincial charter, comprises three sections and is composed of French-speaking elementary and secondary school teachers, inspectors and normal school masters of Ontario. Outstanding among its achievements of the year are: the preparation of an excellent school report-card for French-speaking pupils; a survey on the teaching of written composition in a large number of graded and ungraded schools; the development, in conformity with the new Programme of Studies, of a suitable and detailed method of teaching writing to junior grade pupils.

Correspondence Courses

In the autumn of 1941, the Minister decided to expand the Departmental correspondence school and to offer to French-speaking children living in isolated

parts of Ontario the same courses and examinations which are provided for French-speaking pupils in the public and separate schools of the province. An experienced and successful French-speaking teacher, Miss Hélène Lacasse, was appointed to the correspondence school staff in the Department and the preparation of these new courses was undertaken.

In September, 1942, the Grade I courses for French-speaking pupils were ready for distribution. The great usefulness of this service was evidenced by the large enrolment of beginners—152 Grade I French-speaking pupils—and by the satisfaction expressed by many parents regarding their children's progress during the year. As a mark of appreciation some parents sent in the photographs of the children enrolled in the courses.

Due to the expanding duties of the teacher, Inspector Adélard Gascon, M.A., B.Paed., of Ottawa, was asked to prepare the courses for the other grades in collaboration with the teaching staff of the University of Ottawa Normal School. The lessons for French-speaking pupils of Grade II will be ready for distribution in September, 1943.

Besides rendering invaluable service to a large number of isolated families and to sick or crippled children, the development of these correspondence courses will prove of great value in revising the programme of studies and helping to prepare the necessary text-books for elementary schools attended by French-speaking pupils.

Music

In view of the fact that a very low percentage of French-speaking classes were given regular teaching in Music, the Minister gave his approval to a joint recommendation submitted by the Provincial Supervisor of Music and the Director of French Instruction to appoint a French-speaking Assistant Supervisor of Music. The appointment of Mr. Joseph Beaulieu, Mus.Bac., in the autumn of 1942, was well received by French-speaking teachers and inspectors. Mr. Beaulieu, who has had 27 years of teaching experience in Ontario and who is recognized as a specialist in the training of children's voices and choral singing, will doubtless give new impetus to this important branch of education.

ROBERT GAUTHIER,
Director of French Instruction.

Toronto, January 18th, 1943.